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LITERATURE DEPARTMENT

OF THE

Board of Home Missions and the Woman's Executive Committee of the Presbyterian Church,

156 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK CITY, N. Y.

RESPONSIVE PRAISE SERVICE.

Leader—O Lord, open Thou our lips.

Response—**And our mouth shall show forth Thy praise.**

O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His name together.

Come, and let us declare in Zion the work of the Lord our God.

O give thanks unto the Lord; call upon His name; make known His deeds among the people.

The Lord hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad We who love the Lord delight to praise His name.

I will sing unto the Lord because He hath dealt bountifully with me.

Let the Lord be magnified, which hath pleasure in the prosperity of His servants.

I will mention the loving kindness of the Lord, and the praises of the Lord, according to all that the Lord hath bestowed on us, and the great goodness toward the house of Israel.

Blessed be the Lord who daily loadeth us with benefits, even the God of our salvation.

Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift.

Who can utter the mighty acts of the Lord? Who can show forth all his praise?

Both riches and honor come of Thee, and Thou reignest over all; and in Thine hand is power and in Thine hand it is to make great and to give strength unto all.

Hitherto hath the Lord helped us. Now therefore, our God, we thank Thee, and praise Thy glorious name.

But who am I and what is my people that we should be able to offer so willingly after this sort, for all things come of Thee, and of Thy own have we given Thee.

Not unto us, O Lord, but unto Thy name give glory, for Thy mercy and for Thy truth's sake.

Lift up thine eyes round about and behold: all these gather themselves together and come to Thee.

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light; they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.

And thou shalt teach them the statutes and the laws, and shalt show them the way wherein they must walk and the work that they must do. And I will be their God.

So shall they fear the name of the Lord from the west, and His glory from the rising of the sun.

Sing O daughter of Zion; shout O Israel, be glad and rejoice with all the heart.

Loose thyself from the bands of thy neck, Oh captive daughter of Zion.

Let the righteous be glad; let them rejoice before God; yea, let them exceedingly rejoice.

Praise Him for His mighty acts; praise Him according to His excellent greatness.

From the rising of the sun, unto the going down of the same, the Lord's name is to be praised.

We will bless the Lord from this time forth and for evermore. Praise the Lord.

What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits toward me?

I will pay my vows unto the Lord now in the presence of all His people.

Give unto the Lord the glory due unto His name.

Bring an offering and come before Him; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

Thine, O Lord, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty.

And let all the people say Amen.

No. 135—6th. Ed.—7, 1896.

What command does God give about the poor?

Thou shalt open thy hand wide unto thy brother, to thy poor, and to thy needy in thy land.—*Deut.* xv: 11.

How should we treat those who ask for favors?

Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of thee, turn not thou away.—*Matt.* v: 42

What about the first fruits?

The first of the first fruits of thy land thou shalt bring into the house of the Lord thy God.—*Ex.* xxiii: 19.

Give another promise about liberal souls?

The liberal soul shall be made fat; and he that watereth shall be watered also himself.—*Prov.* xi: 25.

What is God's greatest gift to man?

God so loved the world that he gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth on Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.—*John* iii: 16.

What should we say for this?

Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift.—2 *Cor.* ix: 15.

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Bible Rules for Giving.

BY MRS. W. E. KNOX.

What did the Lord Jesus say about giving?

It is more blessed to give than to receive.—*Acts* xx: 35.

What kind of a giver does God love?

God loveth a cheerful giver.—2 *Cor.* ix: 7.

How have we received, and how should we give?

Freely ye have received, freely give.—*Matt.* x: 8.

How much should we give?

Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the Lord thy God, which He hath given thee.—*Deut.* xvi: 17.

(Also) Thou shalt give unto the Lord thy God according as the Lord thy God hath blessed thee.—*Deut.* xvi: 10

What is the least that we should give?

Of all that thou shalt give me, I will surely give the *tenth* unto Thee.—*Gen.* xxviii: 22.

How are our gifts accepted?

If there be first a willing mind, it is accepted according to that a man hath, and not according to that he hath not.—2 *Cor.* viii: 12.

How should we honor the Lord?

Honor the Lord with thy substance, and with the first fruits of all thine increase.—*Prov.* iii: 9.

What promise does God make to such?

So shall thy barns be filled with plenty and thy presses shall burst out with new wine.—*Prov.* iii: 10.

What is said of him that pities the poor?

He that hath pity upon the poor *lendeth* unto the Lord, and that which he hath given will He pay him again. —*Prov.* xix: 17.

How shall we give?

Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity, for God loveth a cheerful giver.—2 *Cor.* ix: 7.

From whom does God accept offerings?

Of every man that giveth it willingly, with his heart, ye shall take my offering.—*Ex.* xxv : 2.

How often should we give?

Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him.–1 *Cor.* xvi: 2.

What promise is given to those who consider the poor?

Blessed is he that considereth the poor; the Lord will deliver *him* in time of trouble.—*Psalm* xli : 1.

What measures shall be given to those who give liberally?

Give and it shall be given unto you ; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal, it shall be measured to you again.—*Luke* vi : 38.

What does Isaiah say of liberal people?

The liberal deviseth liberal things ; and by liberal things shall he stand. —*Isaiah* xxxii : 8.

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PRIZE

Aunt Hannah's Partnership

SERIES

BY SYDNEY DAYRE.

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Aunt Hannah's Partnership.

BY SYDNEY DAYRE.

I AM obliged to confess that I didn't feel much sympathy with my neighbor, Mrs. Lee, when she came to talk with me about the duties of our Home Missionary Society.

We had had one ever since the church had been started three years before. We had had meetings and made our little monthly payments and had our name in the reports. But it had been a kind of dead and alive business after all. I don't think that was because we didn't care for such things, but because we were so poor ourselves, most of us.

You see we couldn't give without feeling it, and feeling it hard. And there, I suppose, is just where our trouble came in. We hadn't taken right hold of the idea of giving in that way.

When an inquiry came from the Board as to whether our society would undertake to pack a Home Missionary box, some of us almost laughed at the very idea.

'How could we?" asked one.

"I'd be glad if some one would pack a box for me," sighed another.

"We never, never, could send a box full of things which would be worth sending," said another.

And then Mrs. Lee got up and made a little talk.

Now, I don't know what the best opinions are of late about folks being inspired. Some think, of course, that only those who wrote the Bible were inspired, that it's wicked and irreverent to believe it of people living now—common, every-day folks, too, that don't set up for anything great or scholarly. Other folks think that when people give themselves right up to the guidance of the Spirit of God, that is being inspired. I don't pretend, as I said, to have an opinion about it, but I do say that if ever any person out of the Bible is inspired Mrs. Lee was that time.

She began by speaking of the blessings we had all received in being in our good homes and enjoying most of the comforts and some of the luxuries of life. She wanted us all to show our appreciation of these mercies by bringing in our gifts with hearts overflowing with thankfulness for the blessed privilege of giving.

She pointed to a card which we always hung on the wall at missionary meetings. It read:

"Bring ye all the tithes into the store-house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of Hosts, if I will not open you the windows of

heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it."

"It does not mean," she said, "that the Lord is going to send us cent for cent, or dime for dime of what we give. No, indeed! Some of us will have plainer tables when they were plain before. Some of us will go a little shabbier, perhaps not quite comfortable. But it means that he will pour out such marvelous riches of His Holy Spirit as will fill our hearts with rejoicing, will brighten our days with a glory which will be a foretaste of the glory of heaven, will lighten our way, even through sorrows and hardships, with a light from the very throne of God."

I tell you, I could almost see that kind of a light shining in her face as she went on talking about giving until we feel it. She talked just like one who knew well of the skimping and the doing without. Any one could see she had been through it. But pretty soon she worked upward till she reached the One who had given Himself for us. How did He feel the homelessness and the scorn and the contempt, the crown of thorns and the cross?

Well, after we had sung, "I gave my life for thee, what hast thou given for me?" we decided to fill that box.

It wouldn't do for me to take time to tell of all which went to making it up. Perhaps each one of us could write a whole story about it, if only she ever thought of such a thing.

But the stories were mostly kept in the hearts of those who lived them, except in being told to the One who bends to listen to the meekest and humblest of His own who strive to serve in little things.

But with all the effort, I could see, as the time drew near, that some of us felt dissatisfied. All the talking could not make much out of little or make it possible to take from the real needs of our own. So I almost felt out of patience with Mrs. Lee when she, the president of the society, gave out a praise meeting in connection with the packing of the box.

If we could have given liberally, as rich people can, and have come in a little glow of fine feeling over it, the praise meeting would have been all very fine. But I, for one, instead of bringing a song of praise for what we had been able to do, felt more like coming with a cry of pain for what we could not do.

I carried that feeling with me to the meeting and it weighed a little heavier on me when I saw there fewer than I had expected. It gave me to understand that some from whom we had hoped for a trifle had given up trying, and I can't say I blamed them very much.

But as Mrs. Lee and I stood, one at each side of the box to pack it, she looked up at me, saying, "Who hath despised the day of small things?" And the farther I went the more cheered I felt, and the more I realized how fast the littles mount into much. Nothing expensive went in, but plenty of things which showed that earnest, loving thought had come with the gift.

As we gathered for the praise meeting I think we all felt ready for it. But I must confess that I was a little surprised to see old Aunt Hannah there—a person whom I knew couldn't give a thing. The poor old soul had supported herself,

rather a scanty support too, as sick nurse. But now she had rheumatism in her hands and was helpless; so we neighbors, who never could forget all she had sometimes been to us, saw to it that she never lacked enough to eat and keep her warm.

And there she sat with her face beaming like the sun as such of us as had the mind to spoke of the reasons for thanksgiving. Some told of recovery from sickness, some of besetting sins overcome, of a spirit of higher consecration, of success in undertakings, of the conversion of beloved friends. Some only repeated texts, and we all knew what it meant when a mother, who had lost her one lamb, said, "God will wipe away tears from off all faces." Aunt Hannah listened with that same happy smile on her face, and then she got up.

"P'raps some of you think," she said, smiling around on us, "that it's queer I'm here, 'cause you think I've nothing to give. But if you think that you're mistaken. I'm a partner in the richest firm in the world Yes; you think I'm crazy, I know." She laughed and shook her finger at us. "I'm a partner," her voice grew solemn, "with the Lord God of heaven and earth. I'm the one that asks, He's the one that answers. Does He ever refuse? Never, except when He knows it is best, and just think of what the Lord's *best* must be! Now you have brought your givings and I have brought my prayer."

Then she prayed—prayed for that mission to which our box was going till I thought the very heavens must open and let down the blessing. My heart seemed lifted almost before the great white throne—until when she stopped I came down again with the heavy thought:

"O, there are so many missions to be prayed for. If they could all have Aunt Hannah's

prayers; if they all could have the good of such a partnership!"

And then it came upon me like a flash—we can all be members in that partnership—we to pray, He to answer.

As I sat there thinking of it Mrs. Lee came by, for they were moving to go; although I hadn't noticed it.

"It reminds me of a little message I had for you," she said, offering me a scrap she had cut from a newspaper. "Take it home and pin it up where you can see it every day."

This was it:

"Why should we do ourselves this wrong,
Or others—that we are not always strong,
That we are ever overborne with care.
That we should ever weak or heartless be,
Anxious or troubled, when with us is prayer,
And joy and strength and courage are with Thee."

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